

# If You Find a Box Turtle ...

## Things You Can Do To Help the Traveling Turtle:

- Try not to hit it with your car! (If you can do so safely)
- If you stop for the turtle, please do so carefully and avoid any accidents. Pull off the road, and then **do not** walk into oncoming traffic to save the turtle.
- Pick up the turtle and move it off the road in the direction in which it was heading. (If you put it off the road on the wrong side, it may come back out onto the road.)



*You should also know that a state law makes it illegal to "hunt" wildlife from roads and rights-of-way. Unfortunately, the law targeted those who pick up reptiles, whether for research, a pet, or a photograph. At this time there is no guarantee that you would not get ticketed for helping a turtle across the road.*

- Don't move the turtle down the road to better habitat unless the present location is unsuitable for turtles (such as neighborhoods, shopping malls, or being bulldozed). Turtles try to find their old "neighborhood" and don't do well if moved away from home.
- Don't collect the turtle for a pet. There are other ways to get a turtle. If you take the turtle home, it hurts the population of turtles just as if the turtle had been killed.
- If you find the turtle out in the field or in the woods, admire it, photograph it, enjoy it, linger over it as an experience you may not have so easily in the future, count yourself lucky but please, please do not move it or take it home as a pet!
- If you find a box turtle in the wild, you can contribute to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's survey to determine the status of these turtles in Texas. You can report what you saw by going to our reporting page: <http://www.gctts.org/BTPT/wild-sighting.html>

***Thank you!***

### Information provided by the Box Turtle Partnership of Texas (BTPT)

The mission of BTPT is as follows: *The Box Turtle Partnership of Texas advocates the preservation of box turtle populations in their native habitats through education, research, and protection from overharvesting.*

For more information, please visit [www.btpt.org](http://www.btpt.org), or contact us through one of our partner organizations: Dallas-Fort Worth Herpetological Society, Austin Herpetological Society, Austin Reptile Service, Gulf Coast Turtle & Tortoise Society, DFW Turtle & Tortoise Club, Jesse H. Jones Nature Center, Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge, San Angelo Nature Center, UTA Amphibian & Reptile Diversity Research Center.